potential, a two-tier institutional mechanism consisting of an Apex Body headed by Secretary (DP&S) and three discipline-wise Functional Groups have been in existence since 1985. The meetings of these bodies, of which major associations of trade and industry are members, provide an effective forum for exchange of views between the users, the suppliers and the inspection authorities.

3. With a view to encouraging greater participation of civil sector units by recongnising the endeavour put in by them in meeting defence requirements of equipment and stores which are currently being imported, a scheme of National Award for excellence in indigenisation was introduced from the year 1993-94. The awards for the year 1994-95 were presented to seven firms on 18 July, 1996.

4. In order to give a further thrust to the participation of the private sector and specifically the small industry sector in the development of defence equipment a time bound Action Plan in association with Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industry) was drawn up by the Department during 1994. As part of the Action Plan three day workshop/exhibitions were organized at nine different industry centres spread over the country. The response of the small scale entrepreneurs to this programme was very encouraging. As a result of this Action Plan over 300 small scale units have been added to the list of registered suppliers for defence equipment.

[English]

Road Accidents in U.P.

2846. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of road accidents occurred and the number of persons killed in the hilly districts of U.P. during the last six months;

(b) whether the Government have given compensation to the near relative of the persons killed in such road accidents;

(c) whether the Government ensure that the compensation actually reach the relatives of the victims of road accidents;

(d) whether the Government propose to widen the roads and take steps to prevent recurring such accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Youth Hostel in Karnataka

2847. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to construct atleast one Youth Hostel in each District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many such Youth Hostels were constructed during 1995-96;

(c) the amount of assistance provided for the purpose during 1995-96 to Karnataka;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a Youth Hostel constructed in Honnali taluk in Shimoga Distt., Karnataka remains unutilised though construction had been completed;

(e) the number of places in Karnataka proposed to be covered under the above scheme during 1996-97; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above. However, two Youth Hostels, one each at Mysore and Hassan are already functional. One Youth Hostel at Tirtharameswara is under construction. Further, one Youth Hostel each at Sogalu and Karwar has been approved, in principle, for construction.

(c) Nil. For setting up of Youth Hostels, land is provided by the State Government and construction taken care of by the Central Govt. through CPWD.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Nil.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mid Day Meal Scheme

2848. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schools in the country where mid-day-meal scheme has been introduced so far, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of raw/cooked/baked food being given to the children;

(c) whether the introduction of the scheme has increased the attendance of students in schools;